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MAYOR BOB FILNER
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
News Release

THE MAYOR'S FIRST 100 DAYS
AS SAN DIEGO'S 35TH MAYOR!

SAN DIEGO (March 12, 2013) -- Today, Mayor Bob Filner celebrates his 100th day in office as the 35th Mayor of San Diego. He's never taken a day off.

His work ethic underscores his dedication to the job and his commitment to the citizens of San Diego: He is changing City Hall.

Mayor Filner is only the second mayor in the strong mayor form of government in San Diego. As the Chief Executive Officer of the 8th largest city in the country, the Mayor runs the City's daily operations, which includes public safety, public works, planning, real estate, economic development and infrastructure improvement.

He has made an immediate positive impact and taken a hands-on approach to running City government, meeting with constituents and community groups; touring city facilities; directing staff to broaden their sphere of relationships to embrace the City's diversity into contracting and decision-making.

He has emphasized improving the quality of life in all neighborhoods, often visiting with neighbors concerned about projects and ordering city workers to approach a project differently.

“There’s something wrong when the City embarks on a process without informing all the people that will be affected by that process,” he said. “Over the last two decades, San Diego has not done a good job in keeping all of our neighborhoods thriving like downtown San Diego.

“It’s because some of our elected officials lost sight or were blinded by special interests or had tendencies toward complacent governing,” he said. “And when that happens, City staff becomes complacent, too. I’m here to change that.”

Since he took office on Dec. 3, 2012, the Mayor met with and talked to homeless veterans, both men and woman, and based on their input, changed the policy at the Homeless Veterans Tent to provide services to women veterans.

He is pursuing additional permanent housing for the homeless and is providing money to extend the temporary homeless shelter through the spring. He’s spearheading the building two permanent public bathrooms downtown, which would give the homeless a little bit of dignity, he said.

“It’s a small step,” he said. “But it’s a step in the right direction in my fight to end homelessness here in San Diego.”

Ending programs that create bad impressions were also on his to-do list when he took office. For years, as a Congressman, he heard complaints about the Red Light Camera photo enforcement, at a dozen busy intersections.

He had them turned off, taken down and shipped back to the contractor.

“Welcome to our city, here’s a \$500 ticket,” he said would happen no more, when announcing his decision at the most prolific red-light camera in town – the first major intersection that visitors go through when leaving the airport.

Mayor Filner developed a plan to expand the maritime business at the Port of San Diego, with the vision of creating 5,000 new jobs. More jobs could be created by merging the maritime business of the blue economy with the renewable energy business of the green economy, he said.

“It’s the AQUA economy,” said Mayor Filner, when he presented his plan to the San Diego City Council Rules and Economic Development Committee. “We have the perfect weather, the Pacific Ocean and San Diego Bay and we have a

technology hub second to none. This is the perfect blend for AQUA and I'm going to make sure it happens."

Since taking office, Mayor Filner has established an Office of Bi-National Affairs in the City of Tijuana, Mexico, to support his goal of creating a San Diego/Tijuana mega-region, to promote bi-national ideas, business and to improve the access through border crossings that separate the two countries.

At the grand opening of the office with Tijuana Mayor Carlos Bustamante, he announced plans to submit a bid to host the world's first Bi-National Olympics in 2024.

"It's never been done," the Mayor said. "It would be great. We have the Olympic Training Center not far from the border and Tijuana has world-class facilities, too."

He brought the Harbor seals of the La Jolla Children's Pool to the world, after he worked with the non-profit Western Alliance for Nature and installed a 24-hour, infrared "Seal Cam," which has thrilled researchers who now can watch live nighttime births during pupping season.

Keen on making his vision a reality for a more walk-able and bike-able City, he announced the first CicloSDias for San Diego this August, where bicyclists and pedestrians will rule the streets to promote alternative transportation.

He stood up for the rights of taxpayers by refusing to sign a contract authorizing the collection of a tax approved by a small group of hoteliers. The tax is illegal, he said.

"These big business interests are the same interests who demand that the City government outsource work and cut their services, and yet, these same hoteliers are demanding that the City collect this tax for them." Mayor Filner said. "If they want to spend money on attracting tourists to our town, then they can set up their own fund or they can present this tax to the voters to decide. That's the right thing to do."

Only 100 days – but Mayor Filner is well on his way to establishing a progressive City government that listens to its constituents, brings diverse interests to the table, and gets things done.

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